

March 24, 1976

SENATOR GEORGE: Mr. President, I was not heard at the proper time. I just have a suggestion as to our schedule into the evening. We all know what the problem is. We are going to have several hundred Councilmen and Mayors waiting for us. All I'm suggesting is that we take up the bills and we take 987 last. By that time we will invite all the Councilmen and Mayors from across the state to sit in the balconies and they can listen to us and finally find out how rotten they really are.

CLERK: Mr. President... Read amendment offered by Chambers found on page 1346 of the Legislative Journal.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the legislature, if you will turn to page 2 of the committee amendment in section 116 beginning at line 24 you will find these words, no appointed individual while a member of the Commission shall accept appointment to any other political or public office 2) hold or campaign for any other political or public office or 3) hold office in any political party or political committee. I think that should be considered the rationale for the membership of the entire committee and the Governor and the Secretary of State may be allowed to make their appointments but they ought not stay on as members of the committee. Just like the federal judges who filed an action in federal court to get a raise in salary for all federal judges was called silly by the U.S. Attorney General. I think that it is improper and self defeating on a bill of this nature to have two elected public officials on the Commission. I do not think it will give accountability because that's the word that is always used. The legislature is composed of nothing but elected officials and alot of times there's no accountability exemplified in this body, County Boards are the same way, School Boards, City Councils, all of them. I believe this is a stratagem designed to ultimately weaken the Commission in it's operation because if a politician who is in office at the time is going to make judgements and decisions about the administration of this bill or process complaints he has got to think about what effect it may have on him. Not only as a current office holder but as one who may seek office in the future and it is conceivable, yes it is conceivable that a complaint could be brought against an individual who is in office. This automatically, the way I understand it, places the Governor and the Secretary of State on this Commission regardless of their political party or affiliation. I do not think it is proper and if the bill is a sincere attempt to accomplish what they said they felt the basis of the sunshine initiative was then I believe this provision allowing the Governor and the Secretary of State to stay on the Commission should be stricken. The amendment would accomplish that and we would have disinterested parties serving on this Commission. Never should a Judge sit in judgement on an issue to which he may be a party. Since politicians in office are all subject to the provisions of this Act, no politician should rule or be a member of this Commission, not the Secretary of State, not the Governor any more than a member of the legislature should be selected by the other members of the